

December 30, 2015

Board of Selectmen
Financial Advisory Committee
Town of Chilmark, MA 02535

Re: COA Article for April, 2016 Town Meeting

Dear Selectmen and Finance Committee Members:

Please find below the COA proposed Article for the April Town Meeting with supporting explanation.

PROPOSED ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, for Fiscal Year 2017, the sum of \$5,676.30 to support the CORE program, a collaborative program of the four Martha's Vineyard Councils on Aging, to provide coordinated counseling, outreach and referral services to our residents who are 55 years and older. To authorize this expenditure, all six towns must vote to approve an article to fund the CORE program in an amount consistent with the 50/50 formula previously established and accepted by the towns.

EXPLANATION

This Article provides funding for continuing the CORE Program through an agreement with the other three COAs on the Island at the FY17 50/50 formula calculated rate established and agreed upon by the Island towns. The total amount of the funding for FY 2017 is \$55,000. CORE is a collaborative program of the four Martha's Vineyard Councils on Aging originally funded by a Community Initiative Grant of the Martha's Vineyard Hospital. CORE provides coordinated care through a combination of community, office and home based behavioral health and supports to people 55 years and older. CORE actively engages elders in individualized services that: enrich their lives; keep them healthy and safe; and involve them in the programs and activities of the community.

- Over the program's 4.5 years, people over 55 from all Island towns have received assessments, therapy, family work, consultations and/or care coordination through CORE.
- CORE surpassed its 5 year goal of serving 325 people, having seen 348 by June 30, 2015.
- In the last 6 months CORE has served 44 people: 33 women, age 55-97, with an average age of 74; and 11 men age 58 – 94, with an average age of 67.
- In just the last 6 months CORE has provided more than 390 hours of mental health services, 41 care coordination hours, and 85 non-direct service hours, which include travel, outreach to clients not yet seen and meetings with COAs and other referral sources. 55% of CORE visits were made in the home.

Sincerely,

Joyce Albertine
Director